Following President Obama’s very public endorsement during both his inauguration speech and state of the union address, it is highly likely climate change will be the next focus of environmental professionals. Indeed, the environmental profession has already been involved in many aspects of climate change issues and solutions. Traditionally focused on air and waste issues, there has been a seismic shift in recent years to embrace broader environmental issues, especially as they relate to climate change and sustainability.

This month, *EM* offers several articles that focus on aspects of alternative energy, sustainability, and climate change. In the first article (page 4), Holdsworth and Fang provide a timely report and some first-hand insights on the United Nations climate change negotiations held in Doha, Qatar, this past December. Although the US$100-billion Green Climate Fund pledged in Copenhagen in 2009 remains uncommitted, and disagreements among developing and developed countries still exist, the 18th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP-18) in Doha extended the Kyoto Protocol.

In the second article (page 8), Hegg and Aubrey point out that since “the future is not what it used to be,” we, as environmental professionals, need to embrace climate adaptation and strategic planning for the adaptation. Even though the resources can be limited, and the results may be long term, it is essential that the societies, governments, and businesses build resilience toward the unpredictable impacts of climate change. A few examples of he company’s projects on climate change adaptation are provided.

Last but not least, the waves of change, the concepts of waste and potential energy sources are also changing. Instead of simply throwing things away, can we use them in other ways? Tu et al. (page 16) consider the usefulness of waste coffee grounds. Can the oil content be used to make biodiesel, and can the rest as activated carbon for biodiesel purification? Although challenges remain, this article offers a “use them all” approach.

*Enjoy reading.*

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